



Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures


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Richard K. Iizuka
Chief Deputy

DATE: October 7, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman, Fourth District
Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren 
Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

As reported in my previous update on exotic insect pests dated August 27, 2009, the first specimen of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) (*Diaphorina citri*), a serious agricultural pest, was detected in the area of Echo Park by California Department of Food and Agriculture personnel on Monday, August 24. Many specimens have since been detected in and around Echo Park as well as areas as far east as El Monte and as far south as Florence-Firestone (see attached map). Fortunately, no specimen has yet been found to carry the disease huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening disease, which could be devastating to backyard and commercial citrus production.

A quarantine has been established, restricting movement of host plants and fruits from the area. CDFA has treated properties at which ACP specimens have been trapped as well as adjacent properties containing host trees or plants, applying with hand sprayers the pesticides cyfluthrin to foliage and imidacloprid to soil. CDFA informs each property resident prior to any treatment.

To answer questions from residents and to provide them with information regarding the quarantine, eradication, or control activities, CDFA has held the following open house meetings:

- October 1 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.) at Lambert Park Auditorium in El Monte
- October 5 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.) at the Los Angeles Police Academy in Los Angeles
- October 6 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.) at Green Meadows Recreation Center in Walnut Park

I have personally attended each of the above meetings together with members of my staff representing our Pesticide Regulation, Exotic Pest Detection, and Quarantine Enforcement programs. Public attendance has ranged between 10 and 50 individuals at each. Attendees expressing concerns or seeking information regarding pesticides being used have been provided information and explanation and responses have been generally positive and appreciative. Many residents have expressed interest in aiding our efforts by observing their yards and trees for signs of the pests or disease and some have submitted leaf samples for identification of pest damage.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

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One additional open house meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, at the Boyle Heights Senior Citizen Center located at 2839 E 3rd Street, Los Angeles from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. These meetings have proven very successful in promoting communication among CDFA and ACWM staff and interested members of the public and providing a venue at which experts in a wide range of disciplines (pesticide regulation, quarantine enforcement, entomology, plant pathology, etc.) may directly address specific concerns or questions from citizens.

Please note that residents may be directed to call the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 if they believe that they have found a specimen of ACP or any other exotic insect pest.

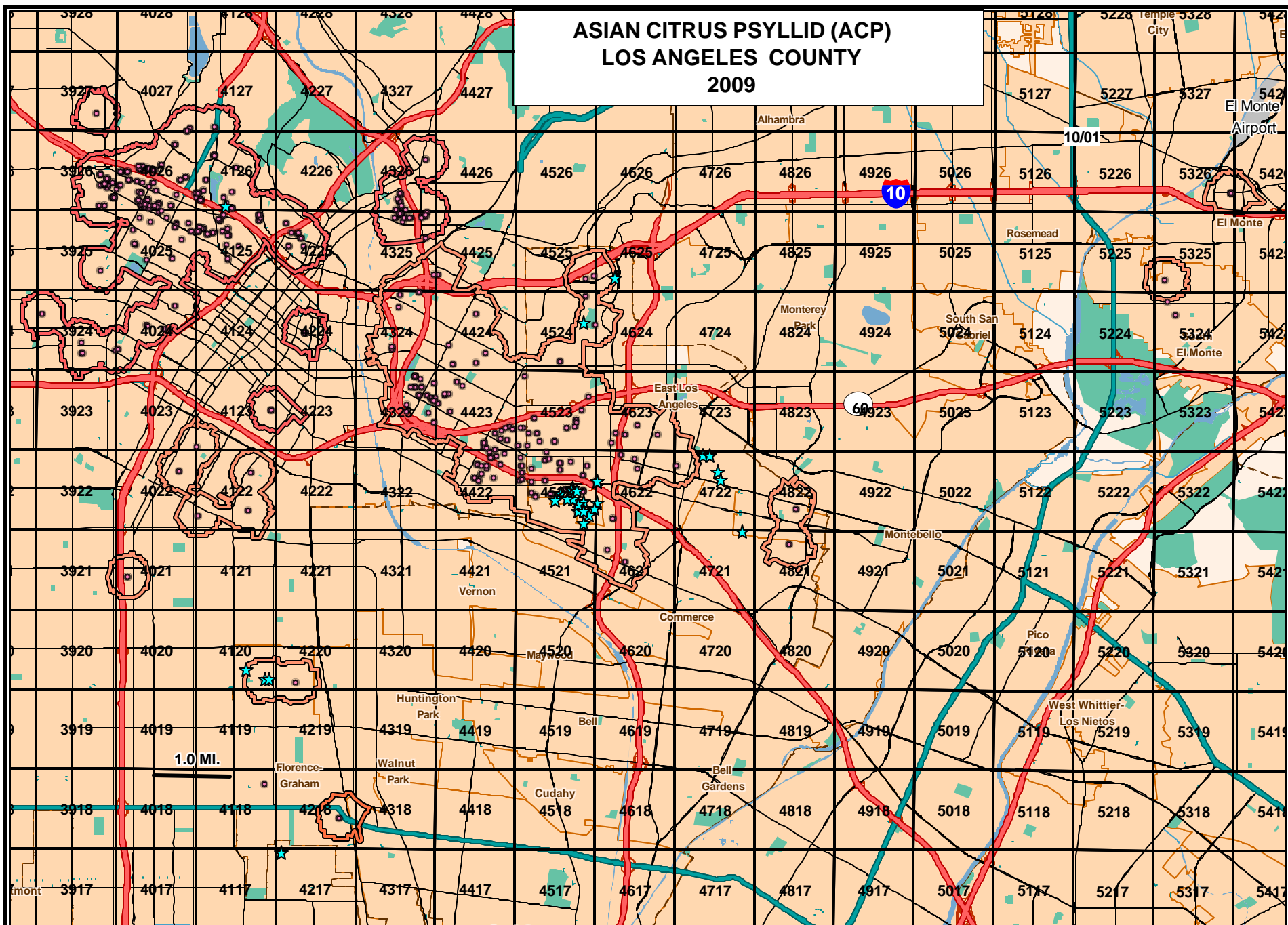
We will continue to inform the City Managers and your Board offices in the areas involved to enable staff to answer questions from the public.

I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

KF

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Brence Culp, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Safety
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer
Board Deputies

ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID (ACP) LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2009



DETECTION SITE



SUSPECT SITE - 10/01/09



400 M TREATMENT BOUNDARY



400 M